



Gary A. Brown
President Pro Tem
Detroit City Council

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POLICE SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE PASSES AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM GARY BROWN RELEASES THREE-PRONG PUBLIC SAFETY APPROACH

DETROIT (May 18, 2010) – Today, Detroit City Council President Pro Tem Gary Brown voted “yes” on the ordinance to establish the Secondary Employment program in the Detroit Police Department (DPD). This ordinance expands the existing off-duty employment program to allow police officers to work private security.

Last year, President Pro Tem Brown made a commitment to voters that if he was elected he would make passing the Secondary Employment program one of his priorities during his first year in office. This ordinance was accomplished in collaboration with council colleagues, the Bing Administration, DPD leaders, business owners, neighborhood associations, and citizens who stood together today to improve public safety. Brown also acknowledged the number of people who worked on the ordinance in previous iterations over the past 18 years.

Neighborhood associations, event producers, businesses and community groups now have the option to hire trained patrol officers with a scout car. It is understood not every neighborhood and business can afford to participate in the Secondary Employment program. Secondary employers may use a hybrid system whereby they contract Secondary Employment officers during peak times and general security officers during off-peak hours.

The activation of the Secondary Employment program will enable DPD to redeploy officers. For instance, the police chief can take into account neighborhoods and businesses that hire off-duty officers through this program and crime data in all neighborhoods. Then, DPD can redeploy on-duty officers based on the greatest need to combat crime knowing that a neighborhood may be more protected than another.

The DPD will collaborate with the unions and the Board of Police Commissioners to develop final policies and procedures. Citizens will have an opportunity to provide comment at the Board of Police Commissioners hearings.

The Law Department had significant input into the ordinance in order to protect the City’s best interests and finances. During the process, best practices from other cities that have used this program successfully, such as Atlanta and Minneapolis, were also included. The ordinance does not supersede any City Code, the City Charter, and collective bargaining agreements. This language is written in the ordinance.

President Pro Tem Brown said, “I will monitor the Secondary Employment program to ensure the proper launch and to assess its progress.”

Three-Prong Public Safety Approach

President Pro Tem Brown is committed to a three-prong approach for reducing police response time, increasing police presence in the neighborhoods, and providing aid to community policing to reduce crime:

- Civilianization of administrative and support staff at police headquarters, precinct stations and district offices geared to move trained officers to the streets for patrol duties;
- Initiate the Secondary Employment program as described above which adds police visibility in our city; and
- Pass an ordinance to force alarm companies to respond to calls before officers are dispatched, which will reduce response times.

In Detroit and throughout the nation 97% of the home and business security alarms are false, which is the largest waste of police resources. An alarm ordinance will allow the chief to more efficiently allocate police resources.

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Detroit City Council President Pro Tem Gary A. Brown

Detroit City Council President Pro Tem Gary A. Brown has a proven track record of dedicated service to the City of Detroit. As your councilman he is providing leadership, accountability and transparency in city government. With a record of being a consensus builder, he is helping to restore integrity and unity to council. President Pro Tem Brown is working collaboratively with colleagues, the mayor, other levels of government and business and community organizations to address the most significant challenges facing Detroit. President Pro Tem Brown promises to be your champion and humble servant on issues that matter to you, and to be a vigilant custodian of your hard-earned taxpayer dollars. Visit www.GaryBrown4Detroit.com to keep posted to legislative actions, including the proposed alarm ordinance.

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